(2) It extends to the whole of Cochin and shall come into force at once.

Clause was put and carried.

Deputy President.—The question is that the title and preamble stand part of the Bill.

The Cochin Village Panchayat Regulation Amendment Bill.

Preamble

Whereas it is expedient further to amend the Cochin Village Panchayat Regulation, V of 1089, it is hereby enacted as follows :—

Title and preamble were put and carried.

Mr. A. Narayana Menon *(Vyttila).*—I move that the Bill be taken up and passed on the first day of the next meeting.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran *(Government Advocate and Law Officer).*—I second it.

Motion was put and carried.

Amendment to Standing Order No. 12.

Mr. V. K. Krishnankutty *(Anthikad).*—I move that the Amendment to Standing Order No. 12 as reported by the Select Committee be taken up for consideration.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri).*—I second it.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran *(Government Advocate and Law Officer).*—Sir, the Government position is this. The principle underlying the amendment as recommended by the Select Committee may prima facie appear to be an acceptable one. But Government are opposing it on the ground of the possibility of repeated complaints that particular starred questions were not answered in practice. Hon'ble Members may realise that while members may choose to star particular questions it will be difficult in particular cases to supply answers for those questions. For instance if an Hon'ble Member chooses to ask for statistics of a dozen years, answers will not be available within a reasonable period of time. Therefore my suggestion is this. I would request the Hon'ble Members' attention to what obtains in other places. This is not a matter on which there is controversy elsewhere.

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Deputy President.—Are you opposing it or only suggesting an amendment?

Mr. Thomas Manjuran *(Government Advocate and Law Officer).*—I am opposing it as such. This provision which has been reported upon is I must say rather unique. Such a provision does not exist in any Assembly or Council. Now the provision dealing with questions contained in the Standing Order is practically the same whether it be in Cochin Council, in the Madras Council or in any other Council. I would draw the Hon'ble Members' attention to S. O. 12 of Cochin. It contains 'Questions shall be put and answers given in such manner as the President may in his discretion determine.' In the British Legislative Assembly also precisely the same Standing Order prevails. Precisely the same is the case in Madras also. Now the practice of starring certain questions and some special treatment being given to those questions both in the Legislative Assembly and Madras and other Councils is not by amending the Standing Orders but by introducing Rules by the President himself. The rules made by the President of the Madras Legislative Council are these. It is found at page 21 under S. O. 15, dated 4th day of 1924."

1. Starred questions to be put at a meeting of the Council with their answers shall be printed and placed on the Council table an hour before the President takes his seat.

The President will call out the name of each interpellator in the order in which names are printed, specify the serial number of his question and make a sufficient pause to give him or any other member a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place and putting a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.

2. Questions, not starred, will not be called in Council, but they will be printed with their answers and placed on the table of the House along with the list of starred questions. Oral Supplementary questions will not be allowed in regard to unstarred questions.

Similar rules have been made in the Legislative Assembly also. Now what the present amendment proposes is something different. 'A member desiring to give preference to a question or questions put by him may make a star mark against every such question provided that the number of such questions put by the member for a particular session shall not exceed the number of days in that session. Preference in answering will be given, as far as possible, to such questions over unstarred questions'. Government may find considerable difficulty in answering questions as much time may have to be spent on some

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questions. And there may be a tendency on the part of the non-officials to suspect that the Government are withholding information. Government may in the meanwhile be bona fide searching for information. We do not want to make a new departure which does not exist anywhere in India and thereby open the way to this sort of perpetual misunderstanding. If the Hon'ble Member will be satisfied with some such procedure followed by other Councils, then Government will be prepared to consider the matter and the President would take action on these lines.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Pallippuram).*—There is some difference between this Council and other Councils in regard to starred questions. In other Councils in the case of starred questions supplementary questions may be asked. But with regard to unstarred questions no supplementary question will be asked. I find the object of this amendment is something different from what it is in other places.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran *(Government Advocate and Law Officer).*—The starred question may require an answer of an extensive nature and such questions are not rare in this Council. If such a question is not answered within a reasonable time, misunderstanding comes in.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi).*—Then how to remove the difficulty?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Pallippuram).*—Here starring means preference to such questions over other questions, but elsewhere starring means the right of asking supplementary questions. The object of starring is absolutely different.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran *(Government Advocate and Law Officer).*—What the Government joints issue for is this. It has always been the endeavour of Government to answer questions with the least possible delay. Whenever a question is received from a non-official member prompt action is taken to answer that question if possible. Every question forwarded by Hon'ble Members is, as soon as it is received and admitted, investigated upon and no time is lost. But when members say that certain questions must be answered in a particular session it may not be always possible to do so. The request is not of much practical value except to create complications and persistent complaints when the Government have not been able to collect the information necessary. We do not want to introduce a state of affairs which will produce such a result. This House aspires to go

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beyond the reformed British Indian Legislatures and beyond the procedure obtaining there.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Pallippuram).*—By agreeing to the amendment suggested by the Law Member we are losing some of our powers. Now we have right to put supplementary questions on all questions. You are going to restrict that power to put supplementary questions to starred questions alone.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran *(Government Advocate and Law Officer).*— I have not put forward an amendment. If it is Hon'ble Members' desire Government will investigate the matter. I cannot consider even that right of putting supplementary questions only on starred questions an unqualified evil, because it is the experience of Hon'ble Members that supplementary questions are asked on unimportant questions and important questions are not reached. It is to focus the attention on particular questions that I have suggested this course. It is for the Hon'ble Members to decide. Government do not propose to impose such a rule. If Hon'ble Members do not think it worthwhile, they need not move for it. I am not moving it.

* **Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** *(Vadakkancheri).*— Sir, the Hon'ble Member for Law has located his objection to the clause that preference should be given to starred questions in giving answers. It is that that is objectionable. But reading that objectionable portion carefully we will find that there is no objection. No difficulty will be created for the Government. The position will be this. A member sends up questions for a meeting of five days. The amendment proposed says that if a member takes it into his head to send 20 questions, the answering of which may not be possible all at once, he can put a star on 5 questions which are important from his standpoint whereby it is implied that according to him he has given preference to those five questions. In this five days' meeting, in the case of members who send 20 questions, Government finds that the time is not sufficient to collect answers for all the 20 questions. At times, questions on which answers have been collected could not be answered because of the restriction of time of one hour and Government have confessed that more questions cannot be answered though answers have been collected. Such things have taken place. When you come to such a position and suppose the member sends up 20 questions and suppose the Government succeed in collecting

* Speech not corrected by the Hon'ble Member.

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answers for all the 20 questions, if no such restriction as is contemplated in the amendment is placed, Government naturally will be answering all the 20 questions if time permits. If this amendment is accepted, in case the answers for all the 20 questions are collected, the amendment wants that in answering questions preference may be given to the 5 questions starred by the member. I do not think that can in any way create any difficulty except that, as was observed by the Hon'ble Member for Law, if the Government does not succeed in collecting answers upon some of the starred questions and starred questions are not answered Government is apprehensive of a position of affairs that in their vision the Council will be putting unnecessary questions subsequently and that is why the starred questions are not answered and that it may create suspicion. But the attitude of the non-official members and the attitude of the Government during these 12 years is not one of suspicion of Government but is one of giving more incentive to the Government to show greater despatch than what they actually show now. We have not been suspecting our Government. We only want to give further incentive so that the Government may come up to the type of the Government which we wish the Government to come to. There is the all-useful clause there 'as far as possible'. If you do not succeed in collecting answers, do not give preference to starred questions. I fail to see how the Government has made up its mind to oppose this useful amendment. A word in reply to the observation of the Hon'ble Member for Pallippuram that what is contemplated by this amendment is to restrict the powers of this Council. In the Provincial Legislative Councils instead of making an amendment to the S. O. they make rules relating to questions. If such rules are here it is then that the difficulty may arise. Nobody wants those rules to be made here. It is in place of those rules that this amendment is made. There is no necessity for the President to make rules. The amendment suggests that a member be given a right to star a number of questions. When the Government succeeds in collecting answers preference may be given to those starred questions. I do not know what the reason behind the Government is to oppose this. If it is the fear of suspicion there is no proof for that.

* **Dr. A. R. Menon** *(Pallippuram)*.—I think the object of the amendment is that there should be a few questions the answers to which the House will be glad to have within a

* Speech not corrected by the Hon'ble Member.

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reasonable time. If a question is sent late and if it is an important one according to the present system it will be taken up only in order. The House may have certain purpose in seeing that the questions are answered within a reasonable time. For example a Bill may have to be introduced and certain answers are necessary. What the amendment wants is to call the pointed attention of Government that the member concerned attaches a little more importance to those questions and as there are many questions and Government may not give equal importance to all the questions they suggest that those questions the House will be glad to have an answer on at the earliest opportunity. The Government may very well say that the collection of answer involves labour and time to collect statistics. You can put the question on the table stating that such and such question requires time to collect the statistics. In spite of what the Hon'ble Member stated I think there is some suspicion that certain questions are kept back deliberately. Some questions are deliberately put as the last ones because after the one hour no supplementary questions can be put on them. May be it is quite unintentional. But that is what we see. But if the amendment is accepted you will be compelled to answer those questions and otherwise you will have to give a reason. The House will also remember that you have not got power to put questions on short notice. Therefore the only way to which we can draw your attention is to star a question.

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar *(Secretary to Government).*— With the permission of the President short notice questions are allowed.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Pallippuram).*—I am sorry, I stand corrected. The only object of the amendment is to call the pointed attention of the Government to the answering of certain questions. You may say that the question cannot be answered for want of time. We are more particular about answers to certain questions. These people can find out when the Government are actually evading an answer and when it is due to want of time. There are equal brains on both sides. Don't think it is a monopoly of that side. With regard to the question that this is not the practice elsewhere why not you set up an example?

Mr. M. V. Cherian *(Mattancheri South).*— I support this amendment because out of a large number of questions I have sent this time one particular question could have been answered. My wish was that it should be answered in this meeting. Not

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only in this meeting but in previous meetings also I had sent a number of questions pertaining to a particular department in the Secretariat. In the usual course the questions would have been forwarded to the particular head of the Department. But he shelves it. You may have sent reminders. On that ground most of my questions relating to that department have not been answered. Either they have lapsed or they have been shelved. Suppose one or two questions are starred they will forward them in the usual course but the head of the Department would be compelled to answer the question. That question will surely be answered then. Now the Staff Selection Board has come into operation. A certain officer has not acted up to it and I wanted to elicit information whether any appointment has been made by that particular individual after the rules have been introduced without the board's sanction. It is only a simple question. It does not require a long investigation or time. But I suspect that that particular question has been forwarded to the particular department which considers it inconvenient to answer. Therefore it has not been answered. Government in the usual course gives whatever answers are sent by them and print them and Government might send reminders. Therefore I submit that this starring will compel the officers who shelve questions and help the members to attach importance to particular questions. The Head of the Department may not understand with what view the member has put the question. All questions are dealt with alike. It is to obviate that difficulty we wish that 5 questions may be starred and answered.

*മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ (*Ezhuvas North*).—സർ, രണ്ടു വാക്കു് ഞാനും പറയാമെന്നു വിചാരിക്കുന്നു. ഗവൺമെൻറിലേക്കു ഒരു വിധത്തിലും നഷ്ടമുണ്ടാകുന്ന സംഗതിയല്ല ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടതു്. നമ്മുടെ നിയമപട്ടവായ ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട നിയമമെമ്പർ അവർകളുടെ പ്രസംഗം കേട്ടപ്പോൾ ഇതു പാസ്സാക്കിയാൽ ഈ നിയമസഭതന്നെ കീഴ്പോട്ട താണുപോകുമെന്നു ഭയപ്പെടത്തക്കവണ്ണമുള്ള ഒരു നിലയാണു തോന്നിയതു്. കഴിഞ്ഞകൊല്ലം ഞാൻ ഈ ചോദ്യങ്ങൾ അയച്ചിരുന്നു. അതയച്ചതു് ബഡ്ജറ്റ് സെഷനിൽ ഞാൻ ഉപക്ഷേപം അവതരിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനു സ്റ്റാററിറിക്സ് കിട്ടുവാൻവേണ്ടിയാണു്. ഭാഗ്യവശാലോ നിർഭാഗ്യവശാലോ ഒരു ചോദ്യംപോലും മീനം സെഷൻ കഴിയുന്നതുവരെ ആൻസർ ചെയ്തിട്ടില്ല. പ്രധാനമായ ചില വിഷയങ്ങളെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു അടിയന്തിരമായ അറൻഷൻ കാണിക്കാതെ ഞങ്ങൾ അയച്ചിരുന്ന ചോദ്യങ്ങൾ നിയമസഭയുടെ കാലാവധി കഴിയുന്ന

* Speech not corrected by the Hon'ble Member.

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തുവരെയും പുറത്തു വരുത്താതിരിക്കുന്നതു കഷ്ടമാണ്. സ്റ്റാർ ചെയ്യണമെന്നു പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതു് @ കമ്മിറ്റിൻസിനുമാത്രമാണ്. വളരെ അടിയന്തിരമായ സംഗതികളെ സംബന്ധിക്കുന്ന ചോദ്യങ്ങൾക്കു സ്റ്റാർമാർക്കു ചെയ്യുന്നതായാൽ ആൻസർ ചെയ്യുന്നതുമെന്ന പ്രതീക്ഷയോടുകൂടി അയക്കുമ്പോൾ അതു തള്ളിക്കളയാതിരിക്കണം എന്നു് ഒരു ഒറ വിചാരമേ ഞങ്ങൾക്കുള്ളൂ. അല്ലാതെ ഗവൺമെന്റിനെ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടിക്കണമെന്നാ വിചാരമില്ല. സ്റ്റാഫ് സെലക്ഷൻ ബോർഡിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ച ചോദ്യങ്ങളിൽ ചിലതൊക്കെ ഇപ്പോൾ ആൻസർ ചെയ്യുവന്നിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഇതു് ഞാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞ സെഷനിൽ ആൻസർ ചെയ്യുമെന്നു് പ്രതീക്ഷിച്ചിരുന്നു. സ്റ്റാഫ് സെലക്ഷൻ ബോർഡിന്റെ നിയമനത്തെപ്പറ്റി ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട മട്ടാഞ്ചേരി മെമ്പർ പറഞ്ഞതുപോലെ.—

മിസ്റ്റർ തോമസ്സ് മാഞ്ഞൂരാൻ (*Government Advocate and Law Officer*).— മട്ടാഞ്ചേരിയിലെ മെമ്പർ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടില്ലല്ലോ.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ (*Ezhuvas North*).— സ്റ്റാഫ് സെലക്ഷൻ ബോർഡിന്റെ നിയമങ്ങളെ സംബന്ധിച്ച ചില ആക്ഷേപങ്ങൾ പുറത്തുവന്നപ്പോൾ അതിന്റെ വിവരം അറിയുന്നതിനു വേണ്ടിയാണ് ഞാൻ അടിയന്തിരമായി ചില ചോദ്യങ്ങൾ അയച്ചതു്. അതിന്റെ മറുപടി കിട്ടാഞ്ഞതുകൊണ്ടു് വളരെ വിഷമംവന്നു. ഞാൻ പ്രതിനിധീകരിക്കുന്ന സമുദായത്തിന്റെ താല്പര്യങ്ങളെ മുൻനിർത്തിക്കൊണ്ടു് അയച്ചിരുന്ന ചോദ്യങ്ങൾക്കു മറുപടി കിട്ടീട്ടില്ല. ഞാൻ ആദ്യമായിട്ട അയച്ചിരുന്ന ചോദ്യങ്ങളാണ് ഇതെല്ലാം. ഈ ചോദ്യങ്ങൾ അയച്ചപ്പോൾ ഈ നിയമം ഇവിടെ പാസ്സാക്കിയിട്ടില്ലെങ്കിലും ആൻസർ ചെയ്യുന്ന ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ ഇതു് അടിയന്തിരമാണെന്നു മനസ്സിലാക്കുവാൻവേണ്ടി ഞാൻ സ്റ്റാർമാർക്കു ചെയ്താണ് അയച്ചതു്. ഞാൻ ഇതു് അയച്ചിരുന്നതു് അത്യാവശ്യമായ ചില സ്റ്റാററിറിക്സ് കിട്ടുവാൻവേണ്ടിയാണു്. പക്ഷെ ഇതേവരെ അതിനു മറുപടി വന്നിട്ടില്ല. ഈ ചോദ്യങ്ങൾകൊണ്ടു ഗവൺമെന്റിനു വല്ല ദോഷവും വരാനുണ്ടോ? ഗവൺമെന്റിന്റെ കണ്ടിൻജൻസിയെ വീപ്പിക്കുന്ന ഒരു സമുദായത്തിന്റെ ആവശ്യങ്ങളെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു് ചില ചോദ്യങ്ങൾ അയച്ചിട്ട ഇതുവരെയും സമാധാനം പറയാനുള്ള ദയവില്ലെന്നുവന്നാൽ വളരെ സങ്കടമാണു്. ഇനിയെങ്കിലും അയക്കുന്ന ചോദ്യങ്ങൾക്കു ശരിയായ മറുപടി താമസിയാതെ കിട്ടുമെന്നു താല്പര്യത്തോടുകൂടി ഗവൺമെന്റു് ഇതിനെ എതുക്കാതെ പാസ്സാക്കണമെന്നാണു് ഞാൻ പറയുന്നതു്. ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള അഭിപ്രായത്തോടുകൂടി ഞാൻ യോജിക്കുന്നു.

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Pallippuram*).—I move the closure motion.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan (*Chalakkudi*).—I second it.

Motion was put and carried.

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Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar *(Secretary to Government).*—The issue before the House is now clear. The object of starring questions as intended by the Hon'ble mover of this amendment is quite different from the object of starring questions in other legislatures. In other assemblies or councils, the obligation to answer questions whether starred or unstarred is the same. There is no difference in this respect. The only difference between starred questions and unstarred questions is this—answers to starred questions are read out in the House, and supplementary questions are put on them. Answers to unstarred questions are only placed on the Table, they are not read on the floor of the House and no supplementary questions can be put on them. This is the difference. The Hon'ble mover of the amendment here wants preference to be given to starred questions in answering questions. There is a practical difficulty. It may be that an answer to an unstarred question is more easily available than an answer to a starred one. If each member begins to star five questions for a session like this as many as 40 questions will have to be answered each day. There thus arises an obligation to answer all these 40 questions. Having regard to the nature of these questions, it may well happen that the answer to these starred questions may not be as easily or as quickly available. It will be placing Government in a position of embarassment every time Government has to say that the answer is not ready or available by that time. That will give rise to unnecessary misunderstanding. It might lead to a cross-examination of the Government Member as to the steps taken to obtain the answer and so on and so forth. For reasons for which Government are not responsible, they will be needlessly suspected or accused of violating the spirit of the amendment by pleading practical difficulty.

Mr. M. V. Cherian *(Mattancheri South).*—If the number is reduced, is the Government prepared to accept it?

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar *(Secretary to Government).*—The question is one of practical difficulty. Government should not be put in a position of embarassment. They are trying their best to furnish answers. If this amendment is accepted Government will always be put to difficulties. It would be very legitimate on the part of members to ask " why is not my question answered, why is the answer not available, etc".

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Palliyppuram).*—All things being equal, they would prefer these starred questions to be answered.

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Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar *(Secretary to Government).*— These phrases, 'as far as possible', 'all things considered', 'other things being equal', etc., are quite familiar to all of us. Their interpretation from time to time will depend upon personal opinions and moods.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ *(Ezhuvas North).*— ഒരു ദിവസം മാഠ ചോദ്യംവീതം ആൻസർ ചെയ്യാമെന്ന് ഗവമ്മെൻറ് സമ്മതിച്ചിട്ടില്ലേ?

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. എസ്സ്. നാരായണയ്യർ *(Secretary to Government).*— മാഠ എന്നു സമ്മതിച്ചിട്ടില്ല. ഒരു മുതൽ മാഠ വരെ ആൻസർ ചെയ്യാറുണ്ട്.

In one or two sessions 30 questions were put down for each day. It was found that as a rule all of them were not reached. The number was therefore reduced.

(At this stage the Hon'ble the President occupied the Chair.)

The procedure and the significance of starring questions in other Councils have already been explained. The object of starring here is something different. You want starred questions to be given preference in the matter of answering. That as I have pointed out may create practical difficulty. Apart from the fact that Government would be obliged to answer 40 starred questions the answers to all of them may not be readily available. Each time, therefore, Government will have to come forward with an explanation. Government do not want to be put in that position of embarassment or difficulty. Government are even now trying their best to answer every question.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur South).*—May I know whether there is any provision in the law which gives any person or body power to frame rules regarding the answering of questions?

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar *(Secretary to Government).*— The President has power. Questions shall be put and answers given in such manner as the President may determine. S. O. 12.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur South).*— Does the member mean that he has power to frame rules as to how the questions should be answered?

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar *(Secretary to Government).*— Yes. But not with regard to the contents of the answer.

Mr. V. K. Krishnankutty *(Anthikad).*—As originally framed my amendment did not contain the expression "as far

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as possible". When the amendment was first introduced the Hon'ble Law Member ojected to it and at the moment suggested that if the expression "as far as possible" were to be accepted by the House he would not object to the amendment. Consistent with this position when the amendment was discussed by the Select Committee this expression which gives a very great latitude for Government was introduced at the instance of the Hon'ble Law Member himself. He might perhaps remember that. Now I fail to understand what events followed which induced him to change his opinion and attack and object to the resolution of the Select Committee of which he was an important member and a consenting member. The only amendment which was made is this. Only two contingencies arise for the non-answering of questions. One is Government may find it difficult for want of time to answer a question. Secondly the question may be inconvenient to answer because the answers might reveal certain things which will not be to the credit of Government. My object is simply to avoid the second contingency, viz., of evading questions.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction).*— In such cases Government will say that Government cannot give an answer.

Mr. V. K. Krishnankutty *(Anthikad).*—Then only the other contingency remains, viz., the availability of time. It is to avoid that difficulty that the expression 'as far as possible' is used. The Hon'ble Leader of the House was saying that the principle of starring questions is different from the principle followed in the Legislative Assembly. I quite agree. The principle there need not be followed. The members want to attach certain importance to the questions and that such questions should be answered in preference to other questions. I do not think that any further explanation is necessary in this matter. I am sorry the Hon'ble Leader always says that it is different from the rules of the Assembly. Nobody stated that it is equivalent to the Assembly procedure. It is an imaginary difficulty. If the Hon'ble Member is saying that only what is adopted there can be adopted here there is great difficulty. When I hear the Government always comparing our State with other countries I am reminded of Pope's saying "all the faults of my betters met in me" I request the Hon'ble Members to vote for this amendment.

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar *(Secretary to Government).*— The question is not one of unwillingness to answer questions. Even with regard to starred questions Government can say that

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they are not prepared to answer, where no public interest is served by answering the question. That is not the difficulty. The difficulty is of a practical nature as pointed out by me already.

Mr. M. V. Cherian *(Mattancheri South).*—Suppose the number of starred questions is reduced to 2 or 3?

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar *(Secretary to Government).*—That does not make a difference. The objection remains on principle. There is no guarantee that answers will be available to these particular questions, if the number of questions is reduced.

Mr. M. V. Cherian *(Mattancheri South).*— We might attach importance to certain questions. The answers to them should be called for expeditiously. We do not have any suspicion that the Government will shelve the answers. It is only to give importance to our questions.

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar *(Secretary to Government).*—If the object is only to secure greater expedition I think there is no necessity for the amendment, because even now questions are answered as expeditiously as possible.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Pallippuram).*—How can we convey to your mind the importance we attach to certain question? Out of the 20 questions the member may attach importance only to one or two questions. How can he be sure that these questions will be answered? This is only to inform you that we attach a little more importance to certain questions. It is not a question of compulsion.

Motion that the following Amendment to S. O. No. 12 be taken into consideration was put and carried.

"After standing Order No. 12 and before Standing Order No. 13 insert the following :—

"12-A. A member desiring to give preference to a question or questions put by him may make a star mark against every such question provided that the number of such questions put by the member for a particular session shall not exceed the number of days in that session. Preference in answering will be given, as far as possible, to such questions over unstarred questions. "

Mr. V. K. Krishnankutty *(Anthikad.)*—I move that the S. O. may be taken up and passed in the next meeting.

Motion was put and carried.

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